FREE EAST TIMOR JAPAN COALITION

TL1142

June 26, 1991

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Joao Deus Pinheiro

Dear Sir:

The Free East Timor Japan Coalition, which has been following the situation in East Timor with regard to human rights for several years, has been inundated with reports of human rights abuses in that territory in the past year. To convey the urgency of the situation to the public in Japan, the Coalition recently published, in Japanese, a report on human rights abuses in the Sept.-Dec. 1990 period based on documentation made available to us.

The Japanese government itself, usually loathe to raise human rights issues in its dealings with foreign countries, took the extremely unusual step of specifically referring to the human rights issue in East Timor in high-level talks in Jakarta in March of this year.

In these circumstances, it is difficult to understand why your government signed a common declaration at the May meeting of EEC/ASEAN which stated that the human rights situation in the ASEAN countries had improved, making no mention of the, if anything, worsening human rights situation in East Timor. Given Portugal's moral obligation to its former territory, should not your government have insisted on the inclusion of a clear and forceful statement about the denial and abuse of human rights in East Timor at this time?

Your excellency need hardly be reminded that, under Indonesian occupation, the Maubere people continue to be denied their fundamental right to self-determination. The EEC/ASEAN countries should be informed by Portugal of the situation and urged in the strongest terms to cooperate to right the injustice.

Respectfully yours,

梶岡 秀

Kajioka Hideshi
Free East Timor Japan Coalition

東チモールに自由を / 全国協議会

善通寺東チモールと連帯する会 〒765 善通寺市文京町3丁目2-1 四国学院大学宗教部筒井洋一郎気付
東チモールの独立に連帯する会 〒606 京都市左京区吉田下阿達町9 きょうと・市民のネットワーク内
仙台東チモール会 〒980 01 仙台市一番町1丁目仙台中郵便局私書箱569号
東チモールの声を聞く会 〒700 岡山市下伊福1丁目2-28 松尾光芳方
東京東チモール協会 〒180 武蔵野市中町1丁目2-9-302
名古屋YWCA東チモールを考える会 〒460 名古屋市中区新栄町2-3
呉YWCA東チモール問題を考える会 〒737 呉市幸町3-1